

We Claim:

1. An expandable shoe capable of being secured to an in-line roller skate and maintaining said skate in a generally upright position for comfortable walking or easy storage comprising:

345 a front shoe portion comprising a horizontally disposed elongated base member having outside walls, ground-contacting bottom surface and substantially rigid opposed left and right side walls extending upwardly therefrom so as to define a front wheel-receiving channel shaped and sized to receive the foremost wheels of an inline skate and blocking means disposed at the front of said channel to engage the front wheel, said blocking
350 means extending upwardly from said channel at least 27.5 degrees above the horizontal plane of the axes of the skate wheels when inserted in said channel and concavely curved to generally conform to the curvature of the front wheel;

a rear shoe portion comprising a horizontally disposed elongated base member having outside walls, ground-contacting bottom surface and substantially rigid opposed left and
355 right side walls extending upwardly therefrom so as to define a rear wheel-receiving channel shaped and sized to receive the rearmost wheels of an inline skate and blocking means disposed at the rear of said channel to engage the rear wheel, said blocking means extending upwardly from said channel at least 27.5 degrees above the horizontal plane of the axes of the skate wheels when inserted in said channel and concavely curved
360 to generally conform to the curvature of the rear wheel;

said front and rear shoe portions having a gap therebetween and connected and maintained in substantially horizontal alignment by a flexible bridge consisting of extensible substantially parallel elongate connecting rail members extending longitudinally across said gap and outside the vertical planes of the left and right side
365 walls of the front and rear wheel-receiving channels; and

said extensible connecting rail members having sufficient elasticity so that, under tension, the front and rear shoe portions are pulled toward each other and the blocking means disposed at the front and rear of the respective wheel-receiving channels engage and bear respectively against the front and rear wheels of an in-line skate inserted therein
370 with sufficient force so as to provide secure attachment of the shoe to the in-line skate.

2. The expandable shoe of Claim 1 wherein the blocking means of said front shoe portion and said rear shoe portion extends from 27.5 to 60 degrees above the horizontal plane of the axes of the skate wheels.
3. The adjustable shoe of Claim 1 wherein the base members of said front and rear shoe portions are tapered from bottom to top so as to provide a slightly wider ground-contacting bottom surface.
4. The adjustable shoe of Claim 1 wherein said flexible bridge is attached to the outside walls of said front and rear shoe portions.
5. The adjustable shoe of Claim 1 wherein the flexible bridge is integrally molded with said front and rear shoe portions.
6. The adjustable shoe of Claim 1 wherein the base members of said front and rear shoe portions have internal cavities.
7. The adjustable shoe of Claim 1 wherein the base members of said front and rear shoe portions are substantially solid.
8. The adjustable shoe of Claim 7 wherein the substantially solid base members of said front and rear shoe portions are obtained by overmolding a rigid thermoplastic base member having internal cavities with an elastomeric material.
9. The adjustable shoe of Claim 8 wherein the flexible bridge is integrally molded with said front and rear shoe portions during said overmolding.
10. An expandable shoe capable of being secured to an in-line roller skate with a rear brake and maintaining said skate in a generally upright position for comfortable walking or easy storage comprising:
a front shoe portion comprising a horizontally disposed elongated member having outside walls, ground-contacting bottom surface and substantially rigid opposed left and right side walls extending upwardly therefrom so as to define a front wheel-receiving channel shaped and sized to receive the foremost wheels of an inline skate and blocking means disposed at the front of said channel to engage the front wheel, said blocking means extending upwardly from said channel at least 27.5 degrees above the horizontal plane of the axes of the skate wheels when inserted in said channel and concavely curved to generally conform to the curvature of the front wheel;

a rear shoe portion with securing means comprising a horizontally disposed elongated member having outside walls, ground-contacting bottom surface and substantially rigid opposed left and right side walls extending upwardly therefrom so as to define a rear wheel-receiving channel shaped and sized to receive the rearmost wheels of an inline skate and blocking means disposed at the rear of said channel to engage the rear wheel, said blocking means extending upwardly from said channel and concavely curved to generally conform to the curvature of the rear wheel, and said securing means attached to the outside walls and extending upwardly and of sufficient length that it will extend over the brake assembly;

410 said front and rear shoe portions having a gap therebetween and connected and maintained in substantially horizontal alignment by a flexible bridge consisting of extensible substantially parallel elongate connecting rail members extending longitudinally across said gap and outside the vertical planes of the left and right sidewalls of the front and rear wheel-receiving channels; and

415 said extensible connecting rail members having sufficient elasticity so that, under tension, the front and rear shoe portions are pulled toward each other and the blocking means disposed at the front and rear of the respective wheel-receiving channels engage and bear respectively against the front and rear wheels of an in-line skate inserted therein.

11. The expandable shoe of Claim 10 wherein the blocking means of the front shoe

420 portion extends from 27.5 to 60 degrees above the horizontal plane of the axes of the skate wheels.

12. The expandable shoe of Claim 10 wherein the securing means of the rear shoe portion consists of a flexible elastic strap attached at either end to the rear half of the outside walls and forming a loop which can be stretched over the rear brake assembly.

425 13. The expandable shoe of Claim 10 wherein the securing means of the rear shoe portion consists of a first strap connected to the rear half of one of the outside walls and a second strap connected to the rear half of the opposite outside wall and a means for connecting said first and second straps and adjusting for a tight fit when one of the straps is looped over the brake assembly.

- 430 14. The adjustable shoe of Claim 10 wherein the base members of said front and rear shoe portions are tapered from bottom to top so as to provide a slightly wider ground-contacting bottom surface.
15. The adjustable shoe of Claim 10 wherein said flexible bridge is attached to the outside walls of said front and rear shoe portions.
- 435 16. The adjustable shoe of Claim 10 wherein the flexible bridge is integrally molded with said front and rear shoe portions.
17. The adjustable shoe of Claim 10 wherein the base members of said front and rear shoe portions have internal cavities.
18. The adjustable shoe of Claim 10 wherein the base members of said front and rear shoe portions are substantially solid.
- 440 19. The adjustable shoe of Claim 18 wherein the substantially solid base members of said front and rear shoe portions are obtained by overmolding a rigid thermoplastic base member having internal cavities with an elastomeric material.
20. The adjustable shoe of Claim 19 wherein the flexible bridge is integrally molded with said front and rear shoe portions during said overmolding.
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